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GB 2329123 A GB 2320893 A GB 2239173 A
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WO 97/48303 A1 WO 87/03460 A1 US 4456023 A
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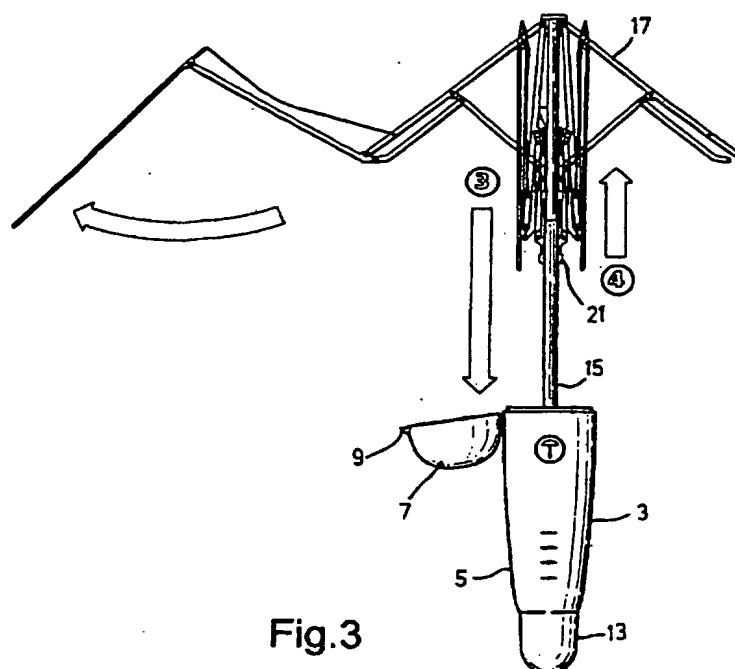
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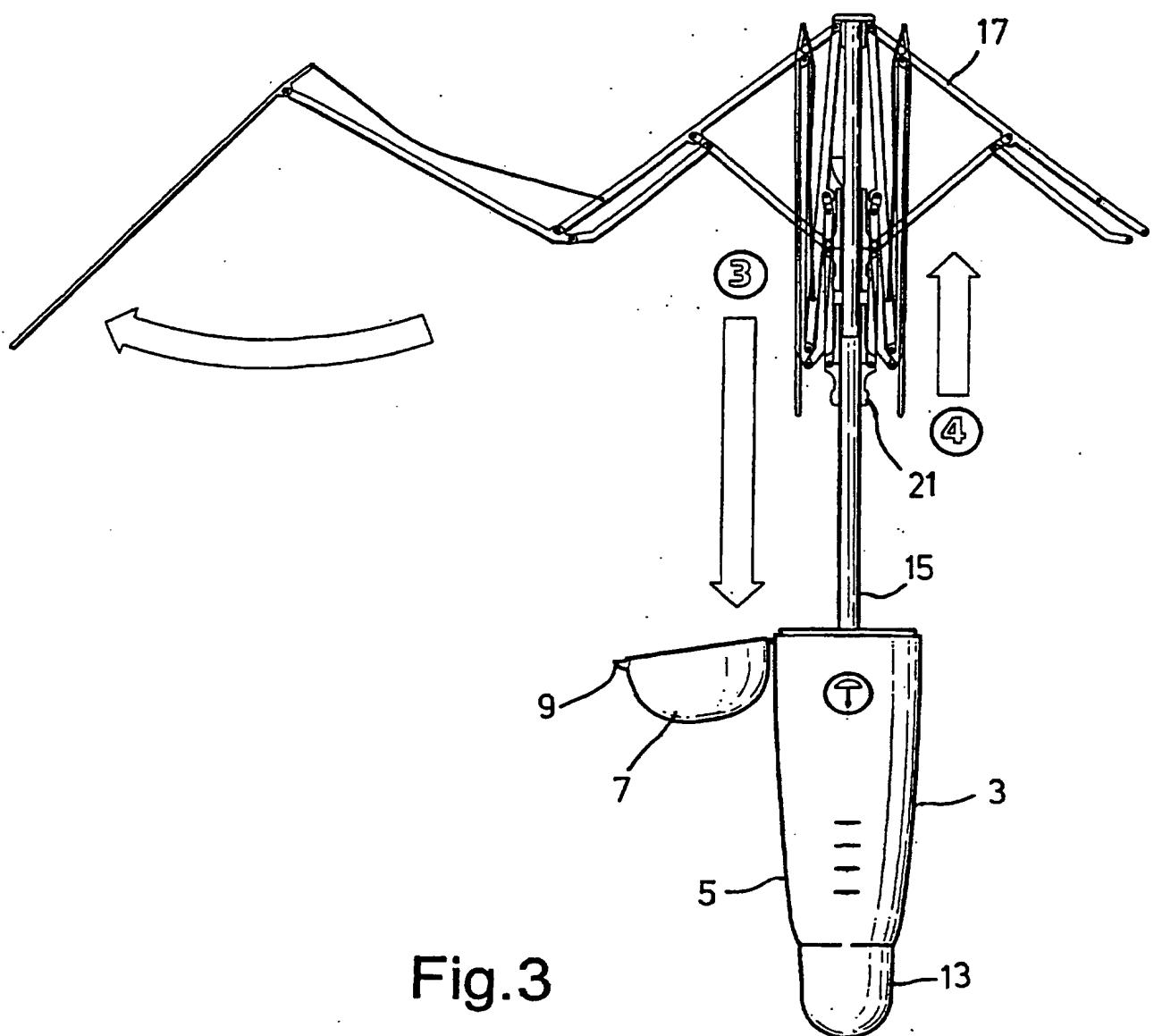
(54) Abstract Title

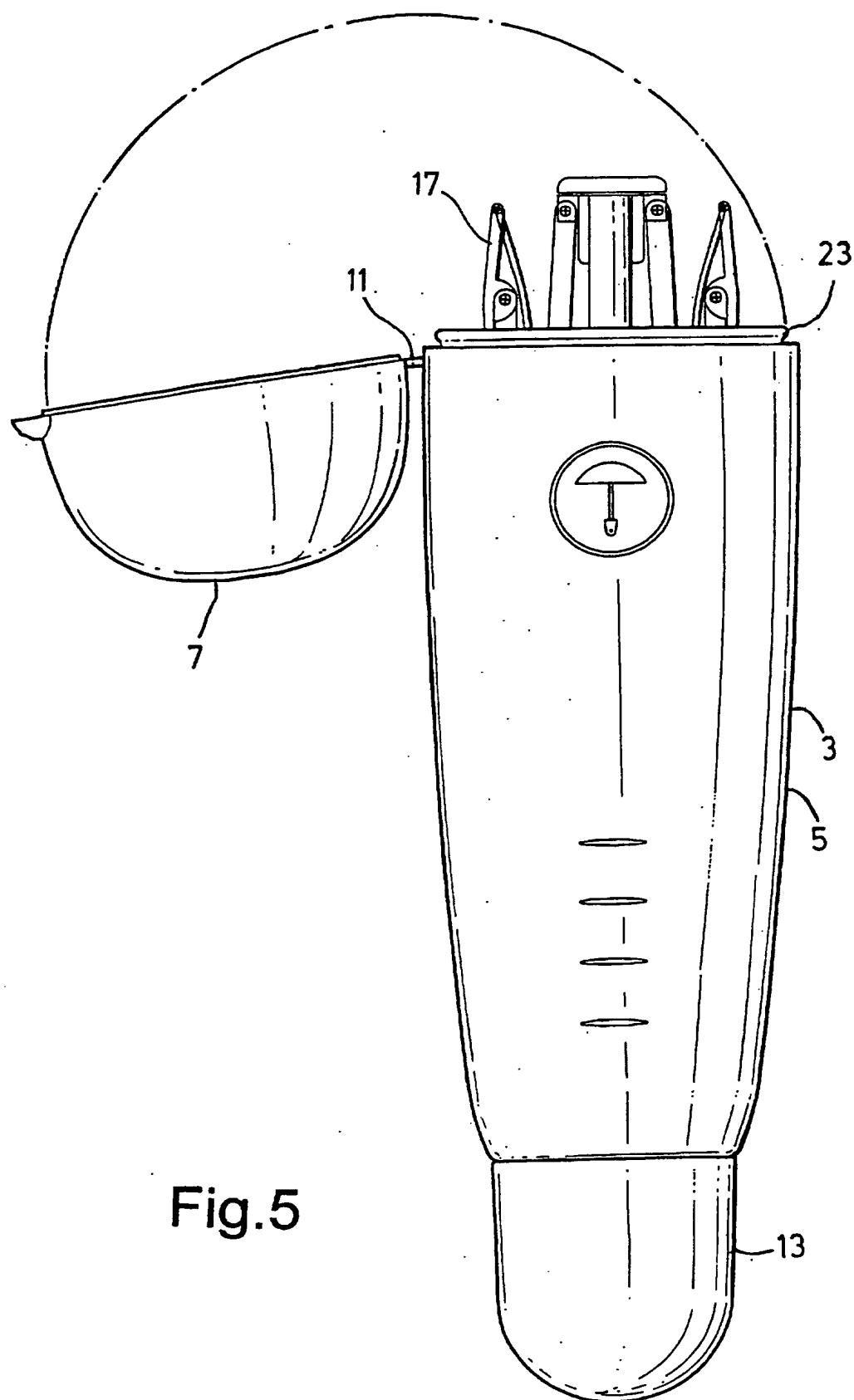
Waterproof container for an umbrella

(57) An umbrella with a telescopic shaft 15 and a canopy 17 is provided on the shaft with a waterproof container 3 for the collapsed umbrella. The container may be of rigid moulded plastics (eg translucent ABS) and may slide along the shaft to a position under the opened canopy (Fig 4). A lid 7 seals the top of the container when the umbrella is collapsed inside it. The base of the container may fit into the handle 13 (Fig 6). The container may be integral with the handle or be provided as a separate item for fitting to an existing umbrella.



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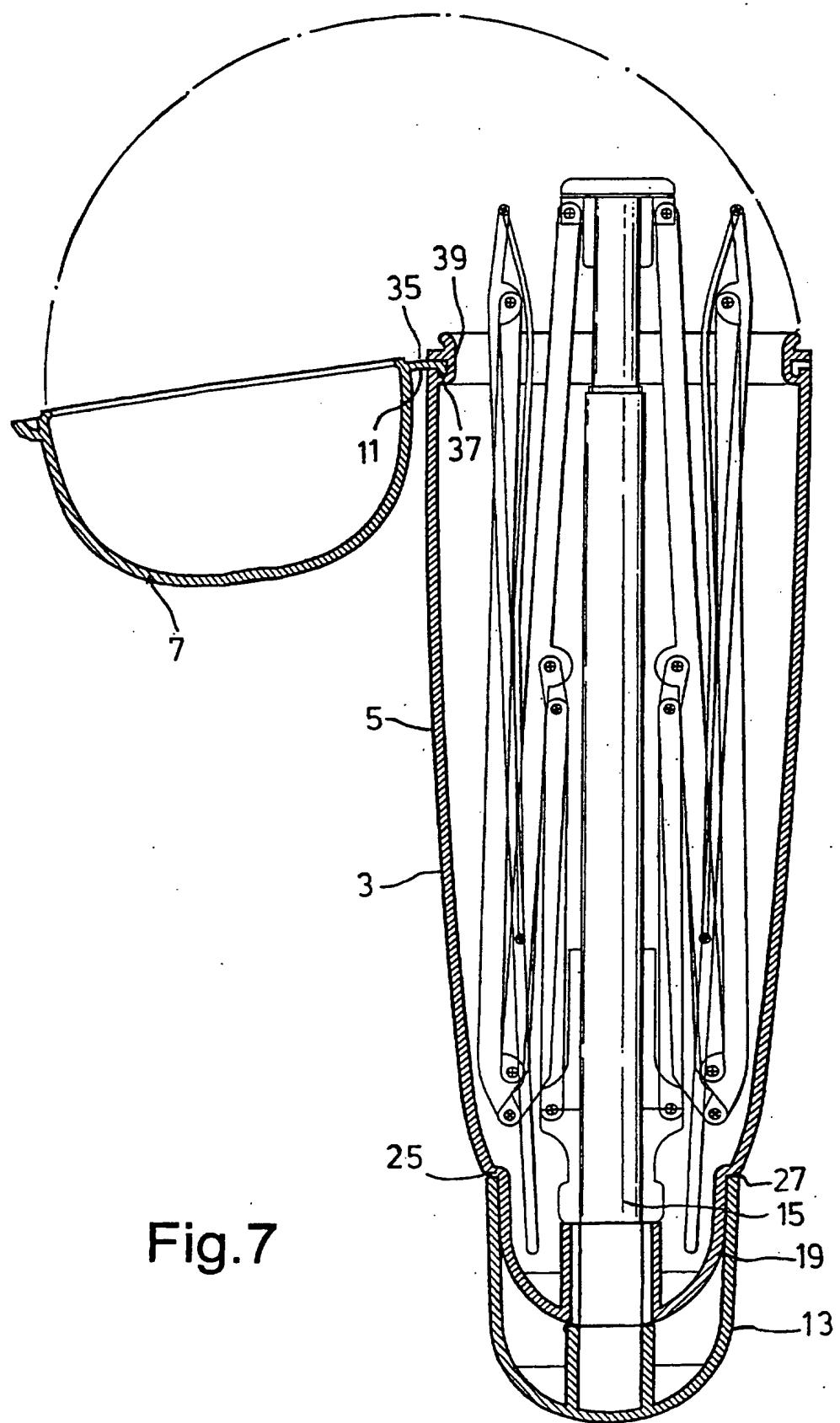


Fig. 7

An Umbrella and Container for an Umbrella

The present invention relates to the field of umbrellas. Most specifically, the present invention relates to the field of containers for umbrellas.

Conventional umbrellas are supplied both with and without covers. During use, the umbrella becomes wet, this is inconvenient for the user as he has to carry around the soaking wet object for the rest of the day. Also, a wet umbrella can be a safety hazard as the umbrella may drip over floors and surfaces causing them to become slippery.

Umbrellas have previously been provided with completely removable covers. However, these covers are generally only intended to keep the canopy of the umbrella neat so that it can be easily stored away. These covers do not provide any serious waterproofing to the umbrella and hence the user still has to carry around a wet object all day.

The present invention addresses the above problems and, in a first aspect provides an umbrella having a shaft and a canopy which collapses from an open position to a closed position, said umbrella further comprising a container for the canopy, wherein said container is substantially waterproof and is capable of enclosing the umbrella canopy when said canopy is closed, the container being substantially shielded by the canopy when the canopy is open, wherein the container remains attached to the umbrella during opening and closing of the canopy.

Hence, the umbrella container stays dry when the canopy is open as it is shielded by the canopy. When the wet canopy is enclosed or sealed in the substantially waterproof container, the canopy cannot drip. Hence, the user can confidently store the

preferably moved up the shaft towards the canopy and fixed in position under the canopy. The container preferably has catch means to fix it at the handle end of the shaft or the canopy end of the shaft. More preferably, two catches are provided, one for fixing the container at the handle end of the shaft and one for fixing the container under the canopy.

In both of the above arrangements, the container is moved up the shaft and fixed directly under the open canopy. This is because optimum shielding of the container is achieved when the container is located directly below the canopy. However, it will be appreciated by a person skilled in the art that the canopy still shields the container, when the container is located at the opposing end of the shaft to the canopy.

Preferably, the shaft is provided with a handle on the opposing end of the shaft to the canopy. In a further preferred arrangement, the handle may be integral with the container.

Preferably, the container has a container body and a lid which is opened to allow the canopy to emerge from the container. The lid is preferably permanently attached to the container body to stop it becoming lost. Preferably, sealing means are provided either on one of or both of the lid and container body such that a water tight seal can be formed between the lid and the container body. Such a seal may be formed by a lip on the container body and a co-operating lip on the lid.

The present invention has been discussed in the context of an umbrella which is of the manual variety, where, for example, the canopy has a sliding member which fits around and is slidable along the shaft. Opening of the canopy is manually effected by pushing the sliding member along the shaft way from the handle.

The present invention can also be used with automatic umbrellas where the canopy is openable by an automatic deployment mechanism operable by the user. Such

Figure 1 shows an umbrella and container in accordance with the present invention, with the canopy enclosed in the container;

Figure 2 shows the umbrella of Figure 1 with the shaft of the umbrella extended;

Figure 3 shows the umbrella of Figures 1 and 2 with the canopy being opened;

Figure 4 shows the umbrella of Figures 1 to 3 with the canopy open and the container fixed in place;

Figure 5 shows an umbrella with its canopy closed, located in the container of the present invention;

Figure 6 shows a cross-section of an umbrella and container shown in Figure 5, with the cap of the container closed;

Figure 7 shows the umbrella and container of Figure 6 with the cap of the container open;

Figure 8 shows the umbrella container (without umbrella canopy) and the umbrella handle; and

Figure 9 shows a detail of the cap of the container for the umbrella.

Figure 1 shows an umbrella and container assembly 1. The umbrella container 3 has a body 5 to which is hingeably connected cap 7. Cap 7 can be opened by applying pressure to finger grip 9 which causes cap 7 to move about hinge 11.

In this closed position, the umbrella canopy is housed within the container 3. The base of the container 3 is received in umbrella handle 13. The interaction between

Once the canopy 17 is closed, the container 3 is slid up the shaft 15 towards the canopy to partially enclose the canopy. The lid of the container 3 is then closed to seal the wet umbrella inside the waterproof container 3. The shaft 15 is then retracted into the container and the base of the container 19 is fitted into handle 13.

The above opening of the umbrella 1 has been described with reference to extending the shaft 15 of the umbrella and then sliding the container 3 along the shaft. However, the umbrella may be opened by releasing cap 7 of the container 3 without first extending the shaft 15 and pulling the handle 13 with the container 3 away from the canopy 17 to release the canopy 17 from the container 3. It will be appreciated that in this configuration, the umbrella handle 13 could be integral with the container 3.

Figure 5 shows a further detail of the container 3 with the umbrella canopy 17 within the container 3. The cap 7 of the container 3 is open. The cap hingeably moves about hinge 11. This figure shows details of the cap 11 sealing to container body 5. In order to maintain a waterproof container, the cap 11 should form a waterproof seal with container 5. The cap 7 is preferably formed of rubber. The body 5 of container 3 is rigid and is provided with a lip 23 provided at the top of the container body, the rubber moulded cap 7 is capable of fitting over said lip 23 to form a watertight connection.

Figures 6 and 7 show a cross-section of the umbrella when enclosed in container 3. The cap 7 is in the closed position in Figure 6 and the open position in Figure 7. In Figures 6 and 7, the base 19 of container 3 is fitted into umbrella handle 13. Umbrella handle 13 abuts against container body 5 at notches 25 and 27. These notches provide a secondary watertight sealing action.

The base 19 of container 3 is provided with a central aperture 29 through which the umbrella shaft 15 is inserted. The aperture 29 allows the container 3 to be slid along the shaft 15. Also, the aperture 29 is provided with a catch action (not shown) which allows the container 3 to be fixed either within the handle of the umbrella 13 or

formed by an injection moulding technique and the cap has a rubberised finish to allow easy grip of the cap with wet hands.

7. An umbrella according to claim 6, wherein the container has a body and a lid provided at the top end of the container, the lid being openable to allow release of the umbrella canopy.
8. An umbrella according to claim 7, wherein the lid and/or the container body are provided with sealing means to form a watertight seal between the lid and the container body
9. An umbrella according to any of claims 4 to 8, wherein the extendible shaft of the umbrella is extendible when the container encloses the canopy.
10. An umbrella according to any of claims 4 to 8, wherein the umbrella further comprises a handle at an opposing end of the shaft to the canopy and said container remains at the handle end of the shaft during the removal of the canopy from the container.
11. An umbrella according to claim 10 when not dependent on claim 5, wherein said container is integral with the handle of said umbrella.
12. An umbrella according to any preceding claim, wherein the canopy is openable by an automatic deployment mechanism operable by the user of the umbrella.
13. An umbrella according to claim 12, wherein the automatic deployment mechanism causes the canopy to be released from the container.
14. An umbrella according to any preceding claim, wherein the container is substantially rigid.
15. An umbrella according to any preceding claim, wherein the container is substantially transparent.



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Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:
UK Cl (Ed.Q): A4P (PAA PH PRC PRD)
Int Cl (Ed.6): A45B (25/24 25/26)
Other: Online : EPODOC,WPI,JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
X	GB2329123	A HARASAWA : See the Figures	1-4,6-11,14-18
X	GB2320893	A HARVEY : See the Figures	1-4,6-11,14-18
X	GB2239173	A MENG : See the Figures	1-4,6-11
X	GB1581103	A DE POLO : See the Figures	1-3,14-18
X	GB1233564	A VANZINI : See the Figures	1-4,9-13
X	EP0596180	A1 VINCENZI : See the Figures	1-3,10-14,18
X	US4456023	A FUJIHASHI : See the Figures	1-4,6-11,14-18
X	US3935874	A COHEN : See the Figures	1-4,6-11,14-18
X	WO97/48303	A1 WRIGHT : See the Figures	1-3,6-11,14-18
X	WO87/03460	A1 ORENSTEIN : See the Figures	1-3,10,11,14-18

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
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